

T/508/516/58

BLACK CHIP

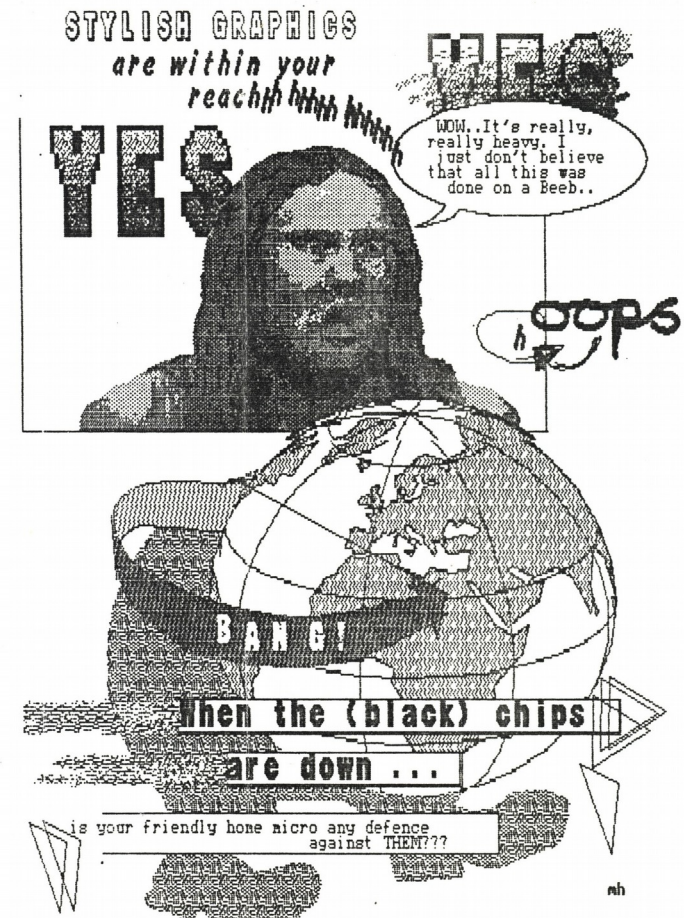
A Radical Journal of New Technology

Issue 86:2

75p

Summer 1986

What you can do with a home computer



contents

Cover (Mike Hales).....	1
Editorial (Richard Alexander).....	3
South Africa (Med-D from Processed World).....	4-7
Communications Campaign (Mike Hales).....	8
AlterNet (Margaret Gouin from INPUT).....	9
Electronics for Peace.....	10-11
Microsystem.....	12-13
Away from a Definition of Community Computing (Peter Rowan).....	14-15
Micromatters (DAITS from DAITS Newsletter).....	15
Information hiccup (J.L. Brodu from Pogonip).....	16-17
Reviews (Richard Alexander, Pan, Harry Gilonis).....	17-20
Shorts.....	21
Contacts.....	22-23
A T & T (anon).....	24



DO YOU WISH YOU WERE
BETTER INFORMED ?

THEN YOU SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO BLACK CHIP !
SEND £3.00 FOR THE NEXT 4 COPIES OF YOUR
FAVOURITE MAGAZINE.

ALL SUBSCRIBERS ARE LICENSED TO DO UNLIMITED
PHOTOCOPIES TO SELL TO THEIR FRIENDS !

SEND YOUR MONEY TO RICHARD ALEXANDER,
55 DUPONT ROAD, LONDON SW20 8EH

editorial

Welcome to the second issue of Black Chip for 1986, a little behind schedule, but nothing to worry about. Readers of the first issue this year may be wondering about some of the projects announced there, so am I ! There were only two responses to the day school idea so that has been dropped. The Microcomputers for Beginners supplement is being worked upon - but we would like a better idea of what you'd like to see in it. There are two bulletin board projects also being worked upon, and with any luck should be up and running by the end of the year - so start saving your pennies for those modems (now that Tandata are doing some for the QL at £80.00 I shall probably get one in the next month or so). Obviously we shall publicise these when they come on-line. In the meantime we have expanded the "Alternatives to Prestel" spot in the Contacts column, thanks to Peter.

There is some talk of getting an "underground" hacking mag going too but naturally I know nothing about this. I suspect that a Post Office Box somewhere will be its home. Talking of hacking other whispers have reached me regarding an International Hacking Association - more news when it arrives. Also copies of the magazine 2600 have started arriving in this country - it is an excellent if expensive source of information (\$2.00 an issue for 8 pages). If you would like a copy of their list of back issues send an s.a.e. to the usual address.

I am now getting the journal Terminal 19/84 from France, excellently produced but I need some help in translating some of the articles, in particular an interview with Toni Negri - hopefully a piece by J-F Lyotard is being done ready for the next issue. Offers gratefully received.

PLUG !

I have inherited a supply of the back numbers of Librarians for Social Change, Alternative Press Index, Amstrad Users Mag, Ace/Forth User, AT Index and loads of Jupiter Ace software which is cluttering up my shelves. Again, please send a large s.a.e. for lists of available items. Some of the LfSC stuff has interesting articles on "Information" which might be of interest to you all.

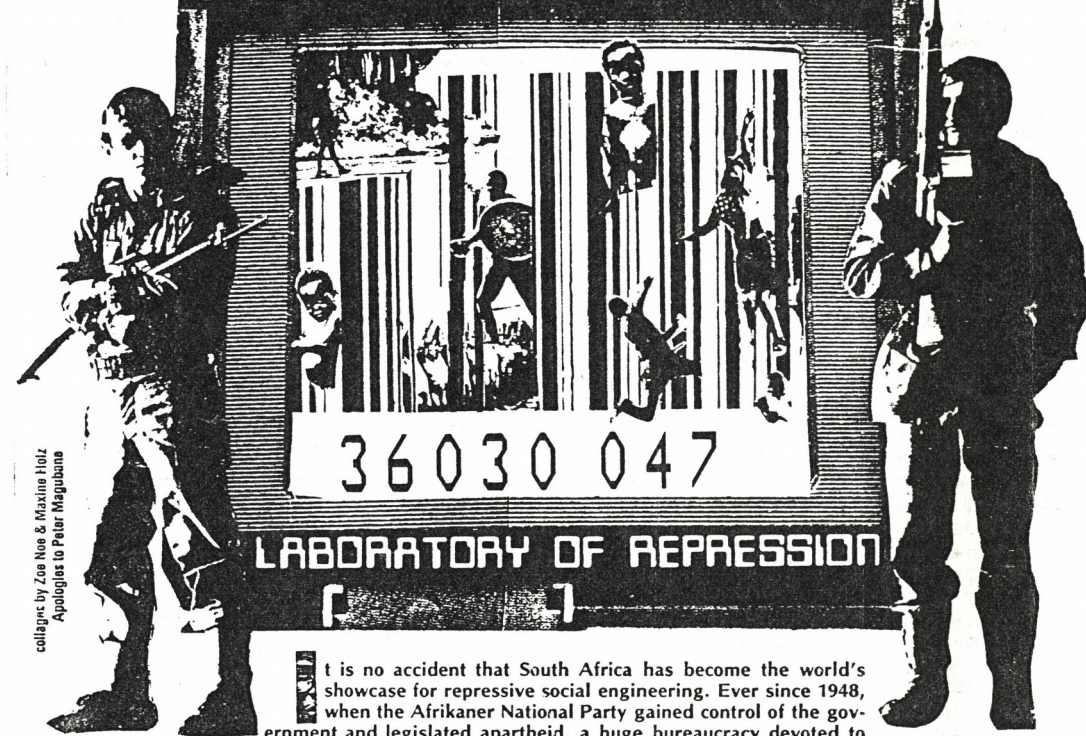
I am also getting copies of Boy Igor's book for sale. Copies are £3.00 each including postage (cash with order). As a special inducement I am doing a special offer of this book plus a year's subscription for a mere £5.00. (Apologies but offer applies only in Britain). I can also supply single copies of Processed World at £2.00 each. Please allow a month for delivery as I have to get them from A Distribution and stocks may be low.

As for the planned "Radical Computing Journal" there has not been much response to this project either although the Community Computing Network may be interested. Cash flow problems have postponed, once again, the planned offset printed version of this paper, perhaps next year ?

On the positive side the magazine is getting to be well-known internationally and the plug in the New Technology special issue of New Internationalist may increase sales further, thanks Peter. (P.S. To all editors, we are no longer a specifically anarchist paper. This is not due to any necessary change of political perspective by the editor, it reflects the wider audience the paper is now reaching and the wider range of views expressed).

Finally to everyone whose subscription has expired please renew as soon as possible. If you're not renewing please write and say so and why. If you're not happy with the content please feel free to write articles, letters, reviews or do graphix etc. The paper certainly needs more original material (thanks to everyone we've pinched from for this issue !!) and it can only come from its readers.

SOUTH AFRICA:



collage by Zoe Noe & Maxine Holz
Apologies to Peter Magubane

It is no accident that South Africa has become the world's showcase for repressive social engineering. Ever since 1948, when the Afrikaner National Party gained control of the government and legislated apartheid, a huge bureaucracy devoted to

controlling the black majority has steadily grown in size and sophistication. Today, it allows South Africa to jail more people per capita every year than any other country in the world. (The US and USSR rank second and third.) But while South Africa may overshadow the superpowers in blatant ruthlessness, it depends upon their lead for the more subtle, 'soft technologies' of social control. ¶ The western press has widely documented the most brutal applications of state repression under apartheid: the mass arrests, torture, murder, and commando raids by the South African Defense Force. What has largely been ignored is the behind-the-scenes use of high technology to maintain apartheid in the wake of black rebellion. ¶ Computers have become essential for administering the labyrinth of apartheid's laws (there have been 18 million arrests of blacks for violating the passbook laws alone) and offsetting the manpower shortage of the mostly white armed forces. As one South African Defense Force specialist put it, "It is impossible to keep up with a lean, mobile force unless you use a computer." There are a number of imported computerized military command systems which directly aid the armed forces. IBM set up a South African-owned affiliate that now services Project Korvor, a system that tracks ammunition and other materiel and supplies for the South African Defense Forces and is a key factor in coordinating the 100,000 troops South Africa has deployed to prevent independence in Namibia.

More insidious is the use of computers by the architects of apartheid within the state bureaucracy. According to *Automating Apartheid* by Thomas Conrad, South Africa's Department of Interior uses IBM computers to store and process the voluminous data known as "The Book of Life." This "book" contains the racial classification, residence, employment, marital status, etc. of the country's white, indian and "mixed race" people. The British firm ICL outbid IBM and won the contract for the memory bank that tracks the country's 25 million blacks. This system stores the vital statistics for all of the country's blacks, each of whom must be fingerprinted at age 16. Nearly 20 million prints are stored and around one million new passbooks are issued to blacks each year. Together the "Book of Life" and the passbook databanks provide Pretoria with surveillance and control capabilities unmatched by any other bureaucracy in the world. To use all this data to its maximum potential for political repression, Pretoria relies on police software like IBM's "Law Enforcement System." ¶ Control Data Corporation contributed its assistance to apartheid by selling the government its "Urban Planning Package" and "Perspective" software. Entire urban environments, including black townships, can be simulated—down to houses, trees, and parked cars—with this system. ¶ Under apartheid such technology has helped design a social infrastructure that superbly accommodates police, military repression. Large expanses,

often miles of treeless, flat land separate black slumtowns from the white urban centers. Such urban "planning" makes any surreptitious movement of blacks toward white areas impossible and exposes the townships to artillery, tank and air attacks. To date, there has been little need to go beyond military intimidation in which armored carriers, tanks, and troops have encircled and cut off townships. But if black unrest was perceived to be out of control, the government has contingency plans for military reprisals that could destroy entire black townships without endangering nearby white areas.

The government does not have a monopoly on computers for social control. The business sector protects its interests with the help of Ontel, a US electronics company, which provides a labor surveillance network that tracks Africans at many large mines and installations. The *Financial Mail*, South Africa's equivalent of the *Wall Street Journal*, says this "labor information system" "provides comprehensive data on every worker, from his ethnic group to his merit rating, and also keeps tabs on where any worker is at any one time."

The African National Congress & South African Youth

The sophistication of surveillance, the web of laws against dissent and free association, and the brutal repression by police military forces make traditional forms of opposition unworkable in South Africa. Radical groups are banned and their leaders jailed, exiled, or killed yet self-organization among blacks is demonstrated daily in boycotts, strikes, and street rioting. Confrontation has intensified throughout the '80s especially since the birth of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in August 1983. A non-racial, grassroots coalition of 600 community, labor, religious, and political organizations, the UDF coalesced around opposition to the government's constitutional reforms establishing coloured and Indian (but not black) "puppet parliaments." This attempt by the Botha government to exacerbate racial tensions totally backfired. Its greatest impact was to further polarize apartheid's non-white collaborators from the vast majority despising them. An election boycott campaign involving all non-white races reduced voter turnout to less than 20%. It galvanized the now widespread movement among militant blacks to make life impossible, often literally, for black and mixed-race stooges serving as police or government "officials" over the townships.

Violence directed toward black town councillors appointed by the Black Local Authorities Act of 1982 has led over 90% of them to resign. Under the pretense of

giving autonomous powers to black townships, the act was a disingenuous scheme to remove financial support for local services. Of the 38 original black local councils, only two are still functioning.

The western press consistently projects the African National Congress (ANC) as the single organization masterminding resistance in S.A., even though the UDF is much bigger and broader. Casting either as the vanguard obscures the incredibly decentralized character of rebellion, a reality perceived to be extremely dangerous by white S.A. corporate leaders and conservative western governments like the Reagan administration. These forces are falling all over themselves to enlighten the Botha government so it will recognize the ANC as the legitimate opposition with which to negotiate for an orderly end to social unrest. To make such a scenario even remotely possible, they desperately need

a single, identifiable black organization and its leader(s) to broker power with.

Fortunately, the ANC is mostly following, not leading, a mass movement that defies central control. The movers and shakers of revolution in S.A. are the virtually unarmed, often leaderless black and mixed-race youth who refuse to wait for reforms their parents never saw. They have developed a practice of near-continuous rebellion which, in September 1985, spilled into the previously sacred white areas for the first time in South African history. Direct attacks on "soft targets" (e.g., shopping malls, beaches, and residences) in white areas have continued and they illustrate how ANC strategy often has to catch up with militant youth actions. Until 1985 the ANC's position was that only "hard" military, police, and corporate targets should be attacked. But recently it had to revise this position to stay abreast with the actual events of an escalating urban



wartare. Similarly, in 1984, when the ANC called for blacks to make the townships "ungovernable" (a phenomenon that was already occurring), the severity and popularity of attacks against black collaborators was quite unexpected. The rise of black-against-black violence and increasing chaos in the streets made some in the ANC feel, quite correctly, that events were eluding their control.

Still, it would be equally misleading to deny the ANC's leadership in several key areas. They train thousands of guerrillas-in-exile and are skilled at coordinating sabotage. Their daring attacks on the Koeberg nuclear power plant, SASOL synthetic fuel plant, Air Force headquarters in downtown Johannesburg, and numerous police stations have certainly inspired blacks to strike at the bases of white power. The ANC has also timed clandestine acts of sabotage to coincide with open, non-violent opposition. One of the most striking examples occurred when the commuter train connecting Soweto workers with Johannesburg was blown up the same day blacks staged a massive work "stay-away" protesting rent increases.

As in most modern revolutionary situations, in S.A. it is the young who are pushing the limits of what is possible. They are mostly teenagers, some pre-teenage, and some in their early twenties. It was this age group that kept resistance alive in the early '70s when the ANC was almost crushed by government repression. Spontaneous school boycotts and the emergence of the Black Consciousness movement emphasizing psychological liberation and empowerment enabled students to break the lull in political opposition. Initially the ANC rejected the Black Consciousness movement with some ideologues even denouncing it as a "petty bourgeois deviation." Still, in 1977 when all Black

In the early '80s, it was a slightly younger group, now called "the children," who initiated attacks against black informers and collaborators with the grotesque practice of the "necklace"—placing a gasoline filled rubber tire around a victim's neck and setting them on fire. In the townships, it is "the children" who stage school boycotts; last year an average of 300,000 secondary students participated in political strikes at any given time. It is youth who enforce the consumer boycotts against white-owned shops (a few white owners who actively oppose apartheid are exempted). And now it is the young who are hitting white areas; beginning the process of ripping open the soft underbelly of white domination.

Hit-and-run direct action has emerged as a common strategy of S.A. rebellion. Even in the legal, above-ground trade union movement, "limited" strikes have been more successful in demonstrating black labor power while mitigating state and corporate repression. Few strikes have lasted long, but since 1982 there has been an average of one new strike each day. A trend has developed in which more work days are lost through strike action in each succeeding year.

Radical confrontations, usually viewed as the pinnacle of revolutionary activity, such as a single nationwide general strike or all-out armed struggle, are serious mistakes in South Africa. Apartheid has successfully organized a social infrastructure and climate which allows the wholesale slaughter of blacks who openly mobilize themselves (e.g., the massacres of 1960 and 1976). Instead, a combination of coordinated labor and consumer strikes, strategic sabotage, limited violence, militant funeral marches, school boycotts, and spontaneous rioting—coupled with divestment/sanctions movements abroad—has forged a spectrum of opposition that is perhaps the most advanced in the world, ever.

Unlike the revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua or the civil war in El Salvador, the global character of S.A. rebellion is highly visible and the exposure of multinational corporate involvement is a fundamental part of the opposition. From England to Japan to the U.S., thousands of people are directing concerted protests against their governments' and firms' bolstering of apartheid. The scope of this international anti-apartheid movement is an unprecedented challenge to multinational corporate freedom.

Tactically, economic sanctions and divestment are seriously flawed. The problems are twofold: the harshest consequences will be diverted elsewhere and the measures themselves are easily

circumvented. In lobbying against sanctions, South Africa's Deputy Minister Louis Nel put it bluntly: "Let us be frank, our neighboring states (especially Botswana, Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho and Swaziland) will suffer before we do. These measures will have an impact on the whole of southern Africa and South Africa will be better able to absorb the impact." What Mr. Nel didn't mention was how the superfluidity of modern capital has already allowed "intermediaries" like Taiwan, Israel and Paraguay to disguise the west's flow of arms, technology, and investment into South Africa. As early as 1978, S.A. secretly studied how to subvert sanctions. A cable from a U.S. diplomat in Pretoria to the State Department that year summarizes what has happened all along:

"Multinationals, including U.S. subsidiaries, are determined to undercut any sanctions action and have already made plans to camouflage their operations through subterfuges arranged with affiliates in other countries."

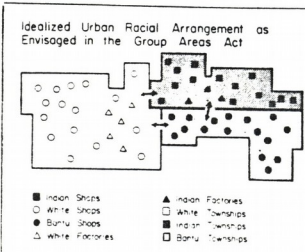
For the most part sanctions are used by reactionary governments in Bonn, London, and D.C. as window dressing to appease anti-apartheid constituencies and to punish Marxist-oriented, majority rule neighbors of South Africa. Yet as a matter of strategy, the sanctions/divestment movement has been quite important. The display of international solidarity against apartheid has been a tremendous boost for the morale of black South Africans. This should not be underestimated. The sheer hopelessness arising from the squalid conditions and internalized oppression under apartheid is significant in keeping down resistance. Black leaders repeatedly point out that when lumpen blacks learn westerners (even whites themselves!) are actively protesting to end apartheid, their sense of that possibility is dramatically enhanced. Conversely, the multi-racial, worldwide condemnation of S.A. is perhaps the strongest force deflating an otherwise confident white racism.

The Corporate Response

Blacks comprise 70% of the population but account for only 2% of auto sales."

—Apartheid as seen by Ford Motor Co.

Even though the Botha government has stubbornly insulated itself from world opinion, corporate powers in South Africa are paranoid. The government's grandiose talk of economic self-sufficiency pales before the reality that American and British investment



Consciousness organizations were banned, it was exiled student activists that provided the ANC with its first large influx of guerrilla recruits. An estimated 75% of the 10,000 students who fled into exile received training from the ANC despite sometimes sharp political cleavages.

account for 70% of domestic banking. As the value of the Rand plunges and international banks refuse to lend money to any S.A. borrower, the schism between capitalists and the government widens.

It is against this backdrop of sliding foreign confidence that whites with the most privilege are scurrying to establish black civil rights. Sadly, because of their efforts a type of neo-apartheid is emerging that may well restore business as usual minus the most blatant racism.

In September of '85, South African corporate huns did the unthinkable; they illegally held "talks" with exiled ANC leaders in Zambia. More meetings have occurred since then, but, to date, the Botha government refuses to participate in any discussions with the ANC. To further pressure the government, 91 corporate heads, including top executives of General Motors, Eastman Kodak, Mobil, Citibank, and leading mining magnates again did the unprecedented. They placed full-page advertisements in major S.A. and U.S. newspapers calling for an end to apartheid. Under the banner headline "WE BELIEVE THERE IS A BETTER WAY," the ads included the statement:

"We believe the reform process should be accelerated by abolishing statutory race discrimination where ever it exists, negotiating with acknowledged black leaders about power sharing, granting full South African citizenship to all our peoples, restoring and entrenching the rule of law." (emphasis added)

With the growth of spontaneous rioting that neither the government nor the ANC can control, capitalists want to make reforms now before it's too late. Many believe that foreign banks and western countries can be satisfied and racial calm restored without conceding a timetable for black rule. Instead they want to allay blacks' most immediate concerns and engage in negotiations that could drag on forever. While there is no strong consensus, many see abolishing the hated pass laws, allowing blacks to own property, releasing Nelson Mandela from prison, and desegregating schools as going far enough without going too far.

While such fundamental reforms would be welcomed, it is doubtful whether they will quell black desires for full rights and majority rule. If anything, new freedoms will fuel black aspirations for a more total social transformation.

The government's most likely changes, such as gutting the pass laws, will be heralded as far-reaching reforms rather than necessary adjustments within an evolving neo-apartheid policy. The growing number of pass violations has prompted even the state appointed



Photo by Peter Magubane

President's Council to recommend their repeal since "the (widespread) circumvention of the law produces contempt for the relevant act and for the authorities." Corporate interests see dismantling the pass laws as a maneuver to calm an increasingly hostile labor force. For blacks living in isolated, single-sex work camps (a universal condition for male mine workers), repealing these laws would allow them to bring their families to live with them. "That would be a force for stability" is how one "labor expert" put it. "One reason a strike can be so volatile is that these men are lonely and frustrated. They can't go home to their families at night."

The most militant reforms, of course, cannot be accommodated within any adaptation of apartheid. The one non-negotiable demand by blacks—majority rule—also happens to be a non-negotiable exclusion from the Afrikaner government's agenda. The hope for a Zimbabwe style of transition, in which whites voluntarily cede political

power to a black majority, withers before the peculiar Afrikaner history and resolve to preserve their way of life. Playing hardball and snubbing Reagan and Thatcher governments alike, S.A. has repeatedly told international critics to go to hell by orchestrating military incursions and U.N. violations throughout the region. With the largest and best equipped army on the continent, it is unlikely that S.A. could be policed by even the superpowers.

For the rest of the '80s, S.A. may prove to be a test case for the relative strength that repressive technology and military prowess have against a politically conscious citizenry outnumbering whites by 28 million to 4.5 million. With whites armed to the teeth (three registered guns per adult) and non-whites who increasingly find life not worth living under apartheid, it is hard to foresee anything but a Beirut scenario in which the only form of dialogue is violence.

—by Med-O





phone: 0293 515320

THE COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

c/o 125 Gossops Drive, Crawley
West Sussex, RH11 8LF
England

20 March 1986

THE CAMPAIGN'S PLANS AFTER ABOLITION

After 31 March, when the GLC's administrative support will be brought to an end, the Communications Campaign will operate as a fully independent organisation. Arrangements have been made to continue regular monthly meetings of the Steering Committee and Editorial Committee and future work is planned, including publications and workshop-conferences.

This is to invite your involvement in the Campaign's future work.

Building on the last year's work with telecoms trade unions, with unions in other sectors including print and the postal services, with community organisations and with other Campaigns, the Steering Committee has agreed that the main commitment for the current year should be a "Communications Fair" to be held in the Autumn, probably in London.

The scale and exact timing of the Fair will depend on success in raising funds, and in the near future the Campaign will be approaching organisations for financial support for the Fair. But the central idea is that the event should be large enough, and with a sufficient variety of contributions from different organisations, so that it can represent the far-reaching implications of "the information society" and the responses which communities are making to the threats which this carries. Just as the communications "revolution" tramples on barriers which previously existed between different sectors, different trades and different nations, so the Fair has to cross these barriers too - but in a way which builds rather than destroys the power of organised workers and ordinary users to communicate about what matters.

To achieve this ambitious aim it is important that a variety of organisations are involved in planning the fair, and in independently convening sessions within the framework of the whole event, illustrating in various ways the "communications" issues arising in their own areas of work - in manufacturing, in service industries, in the voluntary sector, and so on. It is intended to enlarge the membership of the Steering group so that it can adequately coordinate the planning of the fair on this basis. Much of the detailed planning will be carried out by the contributing organisations, with support from the Campaign where necessary.

We hope that the principle underlying the Fair is one that you support: exposing the complex structure of the information and communications industries that are carving up jobs, yet at the same time developing a form of organisation which builds links across older divisions. If you or your organisation would like to contribute to the effort, we would like to hear from you.

AlterNET: computer conferencing locally

By: Margaret Gouin

The AlterNET working group is encouraging the linking of organizations and individuals in the different issue areas.

An Ottawa group is seeking to establish an international computer network (AlterNET) to promote communication among people and organizations working for peace, social and economic development, a healthy global environment, and other compatible goals.

Access to and use of information is central to the task of social change. AlterNET would assist users, from across Canada and internationally, to communicate with one another quickly, easily, and inexpensively. It would facilitate the sharing of ideas and information to an extent that has until now been impossible.

As currently envisioned, AlterNET would be a network of non-profit computer messaging systems located across Canada and in other countries. Each local system would be locally owned and operated, and would have its own computer capable of receiving and filing messages sent by local users. Most messages are expected to be local, but users would also be able to send messages, via their local system, to individuals or organizations elsewhere. A variety of communications patterns would be possible.

AlterNET is intended to help overcome the barriers to easy, effective and low-cost use of computer technology for positive social change. AlterNET's Ottawa working group has proposed:

- Immediate creation of a demonstration system that could be used to show potential use of computer-assisted communication for social action.

- Initiation of contacts with organizations and individuals that share AlterNET's goals, to explore with

potential users how the proposed system could help them in their work and to identify their needs and capabilities. Organizational and financial support will also be sought.

- Identification of others, in Canada and internationally, who are also interested in promoting computer-assisted communications for compatible goals. This would include those who already have established networks, databases, electronic resource systems, etc.

- Working with such groups and individuals to help set up and link appropriate computer-assisted communication systems.

AlterNET:
local and global
computer communications

A non-profit organization is being incorporated to set up and operate an Ottawa computer communications centre. The objectives and functions of this proposed centre are based on the above strategy, and also include:

- Proceeding with the development of the international network, and of practices that would simplify usage and keep costs to a minimum (with special attention to promoting the use of public-domain [i.e. not copyrighted] software).

- Training and helping users, with particular attention being given to encouraging access by groups and individuals who might otherwise have limited access to such technology.

- Working on the creation and sharing of on-line databases tailored to the needs of the users.

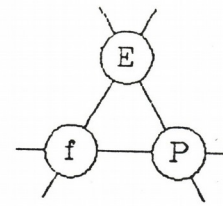
Technology serves the interests of those who own and control it.

- Helping organizations in Canada and the Third World to identify needs which could most effectively be met through the use of computers and to help them select systems appropriate to their needs and budgets, and assisting with training.

The system would have to be large, robust, efficient, replicable, affordable, and secure. Although it will have advanced capabilities, it must be easy to use. It should be able to support bulletin-board posting, conferencing, shared projects (e.g. joint writing of articles), information/databases, educational projects (distance learning), archiving and system back-up, forwarding/receiving of messages and data, polling and referenda, and the dissemination of public-domain software. Designing and creating such a system is a high priority for the Ottawa group.

Although AlterNET is barely four months old, it has already attracted a great deal of interest and enthusiasm, locally and internationally. Those involved are very positive about the future of this project and look forward to collaborating with others on an international scale for its realization. ●

This article has been prepared using materials provided by Richard Kerr and discussions within the Ottawa planning group. AlterNET is the working name of the project until a suitable incorporated name can be found. Comments, questions, information, offers of assistance and donations would be most welcome. They can be addressed to: AlterNET; c/o Margaret Gouin; 447 McLeod #1; OTTAWA, ONT; K1R 5P5; or by contacting her at (613-829-1382, or BDA570 on The Source, PartI name "Rune", PartI conference "Alternet"); or Richard Kerr (rmkerr on CoSy, ccllc.ott.kerr on Envoy, 71706,1553 on Compuserve, or appcomeo.ccllc on Econet).



'WHAT DOES ELECTRONICS FOR PEACE DO?'

Introduction

Electronics for Peace was formed in 1982 by 25 electronics engineers and computer scientists. There are now about 250 paid-up members. Our aims and objectives are listed in 'An Introduction to Electronics for Peace'. This leaflet describes the activities of EfP.

Local Groups

The members of EfP are spread across the entire country, and indeed across the world. Where there are a number of keen local members, such as in London, Oxford and Southampton, thriving local groups have been formed. The contacts for different parts of the country are listed in each newsletter. We are always ready to encourage and help anyone who is willing to be a local contact and to form a local group. Each local group is largely autonomous and free to decide their own activities.

Structure

Major policy decisions are made at the AGM, to which every member is entitled to go. Also at the AGM, the Steering Group is elected. Any EfP member may stand for election. The Steering Group is currently about ten strong and each person on it is expected to serve for three years. The Steering Group meets about every six weeks and is responsible for the day to day running of EfP, from fund-raising to publicity.

Newsletter

Every EfP member receives a copy of the newsletter, which is published six times a year. The newsletter contains articles, news and reviews written by EfP members and other items from elsewhere that may be of interest to EfP members.

Publications

One of the principle activities of EfP is providing technical information, not only to its members, but also to the general public. An assessment of the Ground Launched Cruise Missile, as deployed at Greenham Common, has been published, and is widely available. In addition, copies have been distributed to all M.P.s. A further booklet on the reliability of military electronics will be published shortly. Leaflets about a career in the defence industry and about the Strategic Defence Initiative

have also been published. We will encourage and support anyone who wishes to publish material not only about the defence industry, but also about other abuses of technology such as surveillance and oppression.

Speakers

Members of EfP have spoken, and are available to speak, to audiences as diverse as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Institute of Electrical Engineers, groups at schools and universities and to technical conferences. Again we are happy to encourage any members who are willing to speak to meetings of other societies. We have, in addition, provided statements to the media in reaction to relevant news stories.

Other Projects

Although unaffiliated to any other organisation, EfP members have joined with other groups in specific projects. These include criticism of the Strategic Defence Initiative and advising local councils in Arms Conversion initiatives, to change military industries to socially useful production. Being firmly rooted in the electronics and computer industries, EfP can offer technical information and support to such projects. Other planned projects include the design of a radio for assembly and use in Africa and the setting up of a computer-based information network.

Employment Agency

The latest and most adventurous EfP activity is the creation of an employment agency devoted to finding positions for any engineers and computer scientists who do not wish to work in the defence industry. In addition, a counselling service will be set up to help those concerned about the implications of their work.

Funding

All these activities cost money. Last year, nearly half of EfP's funds came from the subscriptions of its members (currently a minimum of £5 *per annum*). The remainder came from charitable trusts. It is hoped that, eventually, the employment agency will be self-financing and, indeed, will put money back into EfP. Donations from companies in the electronics industry would be most welcome!

April 1986

Electronics for Peace can be contacted at:

Townsend House,
Green Lane,
Marshfield,
Cheltenham,
Wilts SN14 8JW

microsystem

microsystem - how we started

Microsystem was set up in 1982 to develop ways to use microcomputers for women. Our first project was putting the subscription list of the Feminist Library (at that time the Women's Research and Resources Centre) on a micro that we shared.

We came out of Women and Computing, a group formed in 1979 to discuss the impact of computers on women - what it is like as a woman working in computing; how new technology is affecting women's jobs; possible dangers to health and to privacy; and how we could make our computer skills work for women.

In May 1984 we received funding from the Greater London Council to employ workers so that we could offer advice and help to more women's groups. We are also involved in the National Women and Computing Network, which keeps women interested in computing in touch with each other, and we are continuing to discuss and publicise the ways in which new technology affects women's lives.

how microsystem can help you

We can advise you on whether a computer would really help you, whether you've already thought of the tasks you want it to do or are just interested to hear what one might do for you.

If you want or need a microcomputer of your own, we can help you work out the system that would suit you best, and help you write out applications for grants or loans to buy it.

Once you have a microcomputer system, we can show you how to set up all the different parts - the 'hardware' - and advise or teach you how to use the specific programs ('packages') you've bought to go with it - the 'software'.

We can also work with you to develop specific software for your special needs that 'off-the-shelf' packages can't cater for.

If a computer could help you, but you don't need to use it very often, we can offer a service on our microcomputers.

We can help you with surveys by working with you to set up your questionnaire and then computerising the results to give you a full analysis.

We are also happy to come and talk to groups or conferences about computers, the ways women can use them and some of the implications for women of new technology.

Microsystem is a feminist group which understands and respects the need for confidentiality of information held by women's groups.

microsystem - our aims

Microsystem aims to encourage women to think about positive ways of making computers work for women. We are aware that many women feel alienated and excluded by new technology, and are worried by the threat they do pose to our jobs and privacy. We not only want to provide a service for women, but also to open up these debates in the Women's Liberation Movement.

Microsystem aims to:

- * provide computing services to women and women's groups
- * make contact with and support other feminists working in computing
- * provide a feminist perspective on new technology
- * to introduce the skills and knowledge necessary for women to benefit from and critically assess new technology

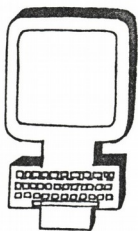
could a computer help your group?

Computers are designed specifically to do repetitive jobs - like producing labels for sending out a newsletter every month. They can also file a large amount of information so that you can quickly extract it according to different categories: for example, you can easily tell how many women in one town are due to renew their subscriptions.

They are also very fast at calculations, and because they can compare figures quickly, they are useful for analysing surveys, for producing financial plans and for doing accounts.

You might consider using a computer if, for example:

- * you keep a large amount of information in a filing system that is threatening to become too complicated to use
- * you send out a newsletter or information to a large number of women on a regular basis
- * you want to tell your subscribers when their sub is about to run out automatically
- * you're running a survey and you want to analyse the results
- * you send out invoices to the same people regularly
- * you have to keep very detailed accounts



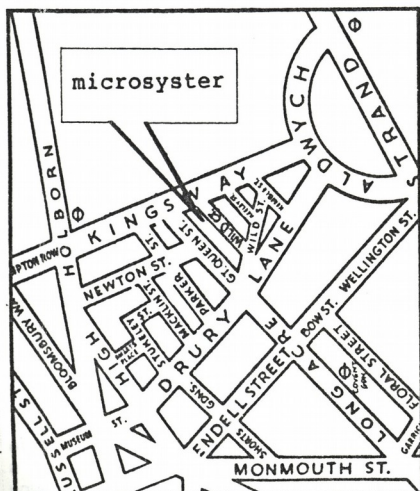
RESOURCES

experience and equipment

The six members of Microsystem have in total 24 woman-years in computing. This experience spans consultancy, survey analysis, programming in all the main computer languages, training and education. We have worked on a wide variety of machines. We are all committed to and involved in the Women's Liberation Movement.

Microsystem has worked with several women's groups including the Feminist Library (formerly the WRRRC) and Outwrite.

We have two IBM systems and a high quality printer. We have a variety of software packages, including WordStar (word processing), dBase II (database management), SPSSX (survey analysis) and Multiplan (spread sheet for accounts).



Wesley House,
Wild Court,
(off Kingsway),
London WC2

(01-430 0655)

Two well-known and respected political publications have recently brought out special issues that may interest readers of Black Chip.

Science for People #61, Summer 1986, priced 85p is a Star Wars Special Issue with no less than seven feature articles on topics associated with SDI. Nothing startlingly original but a good overview of the area. It also has reviews of three books on Star Wars. Thoroughly recommended, obtainable from good bookshops or from the publishers at 25 Horsell Road, London N5 (01-607-9615). Science for People are looking for new members for their collective so if you've got some spare time give them a ring.

New Internationalist #162, August 1986, price 85p, looks at Patterns of Control, the human shape of technology. This is definitely recommended for those readers wanting a brief run through of the political and social dimensions of the new technologies. With eleven feature articles this should have something for everyone. If your local newsagent can't supply it contact the publishers at 42 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EP (0865-728181). P.S. Thanks for the plug Peter !!!

NEWS

A computerised Alternative International News Service is to start soon. The Autonomous Group on Political Computing brings European Greens and leftists together on the Hamburg and London Geonet system, while the North American group, housed on Unicen, has links so far with Nicaragua, Argentina, New Zealand and Japan. Messages are passed between the two hosts daily. For info contact: Green-net, 1053 Williamson Street, Madison WI 53708, USA (608-256-4158) or Planet Tree Communications, 17 Mackson Road, London NW3.

AWAY FROM A DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY COMPUTING

Community computing is a strange concept - the nearest comparison is probably community transport i.e. the use of a particular tool, be it vehicle or computer, to improve the opportunities of disadvantaged people. For transport that's fairly straightforward - people know how and what type of transport will help. But computers? They don't even know if they've got a computer problem, let alone what will solve it.

For me, 'community computing' is a shorthand. It stands for the statement 'my expertise and interest is in computing and I want to apply that to my beliefs'. Primarily, my belief that priority should be given to people whose opportunities are limited - limited by handicap or disability, limited by discrimination, limited by lack of money, limited by the power exercised by others.

So the groups of people that community computing should serve include disabled people, women, black people and those from minority ethnic groups, gay people, poor people, unemployed people, employees, those under the care of others and all people under threat of violence, whether that threat comes from individuals, groups or agents of statutory bodies or as a result of inter-state power games.

Those who are involved in community computing are bound to keep to the best possible practice in the use of new technology. Their methods must take more regard than anyone else does of health hazards, working practices, demystifying technology and the question of who is in control.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT HELP

Community computing covers two types of computer use:

1. People using computers as a direct help to increase their opportunities - this includes public information systems, welfare benefits calculators, new technology training courses, aids for disabled people.
2. Groups and organisations which help increase people's opportunities (voluntary and community groups, charities, centres for young or unemployed people) using computers to help their own administration and therefore as an indirect help.

The position of those with computer expertise is crucial - they have a responsibility to apply their expertise and to pass it on. There are many experts who are willing but are totally incapable of communicating with non-experts. There are some who can and do bridge the gap between computer mystique and naivety.

DON'T DO IT

I do not understand those who left the CCN Sheffield conference saying "But we haven't discussed community computing - we don't know what it is". It has no philosophy, no ideology of its own - those who want one are giving computers a status they do not deserve. Make a statement of your personal philosophy, politics and beliefs - there is your statement of community computing. If you insist on a philosophy of community computing, make sure you leave plenty of time for developing philosophies of community driving, community typewriting, community photocopying, community coffee-making and community pencil-sharpening. Alternatively, get on with what you believe in and carry on sharing skills and making contact with those who share some of those beliefs.

Pete Rowan - April 1986

Micro matters

From the beginning of this year CAITS has been running a micro computer base information service for trade unionists. The service accesses computer databases that contain an immense amount of information on companies, products, corporate strategies, new technology and manufacturing processes and more besides.

At CAITS it was realised that there existed a vast range of untapped (from a trade union perspective) corporate information held on database systems. A facility which could be used to gain access to such information could improve both the speed and accuracy of the research undertaken by CAITS into transnational corporations. One of the main advantages of such a facility is the international coverage of trade, technical and newspaper articles provided.

GOING ON-LINE

In January 1985, after a number of problems concerning equipment compatibility and the installation of telephone lines, CAITS went 'on-line' to three host systems that provide access to a number of international and national databases.

In May CAITS began publicising the Information Service to trade union and community groups, making the 'on-line' facility more widely available. In effect we are able to provide information on corporate activities rapidly and relatively cheaply to these groups who have in the past had no access to either the technology or the skills required to use it.

HUMAN INTERFACE

CAITS operates as a human interface between the information seeker and the technology. If the technology and the skills to operate it are made more readily available, the role of human interface will not be required. However, the 'IT revolution' has not yet released or 'liberated' the technology nor the requisite skills needed to operate it. The 'sci-fi' dream of the information society still looks a long way off.

INFORMATION BROKERAGE VERSUS VALUE ADDED SERVICE

The Information Service has until now provided clients with the 'raw' data extracted from the databases. We have come to the

conclusion that it is not particularly useful simply to provide a list of abstracts and references to relevant articles.

In future we will analyse the information drawn from the various databases we access in the form of short reports. In addition we will make suggestions as to other possible sources of information and make recommendations for further research.

YOUR COMPANY'S ACCOUNTS MADE EASY

Another new service we are offering presents standardised and a somewhat simplified version of company accounts which focuses on those aspects of a company's finances most appropriate to trade unionists as opposed to those of shareholders or city institutions.

The package is based around four tables covering trading performance, profitability, the productive contribution of the workforce, the financial strength of the enterprise and its cashflow. These tables are presented in a standardised form with a definition of each item and an explanation of its significance. The package also includes a brief analysis of each table and its relevance to trade unionists in terms of job security, wages and conditions. The full version of this package is available on the top 2,000 companies in the UK:

For more information, contact: Nick Longman or Dave Pelly on 01-609 4530.

CAITS Quarterly No 22 December 1985

information hiccup

It would seem as if we have irrevocably entered into an information society. Information technology has infiltrated so many diverse areas that now, in 1986, it was quicker to enumerate those human activities which resist computerisation than those which have already surrendered.

The prophets of a new kind of Messianism make compelling promises of a new golden age of computers. In the near future they promise us such possibilities of production and communication that the myths associated with a universal language and of the ideal city would in themselves express the state of extreme happiness engendered by the utilisation of all-knowing systems.

This futuristic scenario conceals the short-comings of a system of social control which well deserves its description of "dehumanised". Recent events have, for example, highlighted the appearance in industrialised societies of a breed of people who are invisible because they are not counted due to mistakes or omissions in the computer records of various government departments. Many people are doubtless overjoyed at the idea of no longer featuring in certain files in the Ministry of Finance or the Home Office but those who learn of their own death from the social services find the situation less amusing. The proscribed data: ethnic origin, political and religious convictions, should theoretically not feature in the computer files of businesses or government departments. However, it is a matter of public dismay that official bodies take care, if not to escape the control of the Commission of Computers and Liberty, at least to render it useless.

What one person has created another can destroy. No computer system can be 100% secure. Some people, more as a kind of game than through any wish to do harm, have made a speciality of fraudulently penetrating as far as

the heart of large computer systems. This haunting of computer security appears in the tales which go round the computer world. The best known of these is that of the "Repentant Bidouiller" (Hacker?): "The micro computer buff who infiltrates the very heart of the system ends up being given an important job with a salary larger than the chief of security".

Fraudulent employees, pirates, mistakes in programmes, all inspire the very real fear that data of all kinds might be sold, detoured, messed about with, stolen or wiped out in a multitude of ways. Even without the evil intentions of the hateful pirates, major embezzellers and small hackers, the Achilles Heel of all information systems is that it has to use the kind of data which does not make its poor little silicon brain ill. Will the unwary user, the "klutz", inserting the wicked disc in their programmable Pandora's Box, replace, in various ways, the circus boy who forgot to shut the wild beast's cage?

The anguish of seeing information systems going down for one reason or another leads us to another type of interrogation which was conceived in the wake of science fiction before computers even became a practical reality: will the machine one day start to think for itself and then will not its conscience lead it to turn against its creator?

This question does not really make sense in relation to the actual understanding of the verb "to think". It relies on the process of mythologising which accredits super human qualities to computers. From one false expression to another: the "electronic brain" of the 50's corresponds to the "artificial intelligence" of the 80's.

In his study on "The Myth of the Machine", Lewis Mumford has suggested that the dehumanisation of human work would be accompanied by a compensatory humanisation of the machine. In the case of the computer it is the characteristic which the

REVIEW

human race prides itself on possessing which makes the difference between humans and the "brute" creation: the intelligence which is projected onto the machine.

But would it ever be possible to conceive a system which would know how to improvise an adequate response to an unexpected situation?

Certainly, as Buffon has said, "Style is the person" and the only style computers can have is that of the people who write their programmes. Responsible for the behaviour of computer systems, programmers must follow the example of the wise Rabbis of the middle ages, who modelled their Golems taking care to include the cabalistic equivalent of an on-off switch.

Neither beasts nor demons, computers are rather vehicles, a means of access to miniature worlds populated with imitation beings called programmes.

J.L. Brodu.

(A translation of "Tic Informatique", part of the text "Traduire debugging sans Bug", published by POGONIP, BP 195, 75665 Paris Cedex 14, France. Costs 10F.

Translation by Hilary.

Future editions of Black Chip may feature further translations of parts of this text or other texts from POGONIP. We welcome hearing from people who can do translations from French into English, as the journal Terminal 19/84 has been publishing excellent articles, which I'd like to get done into English for your pleasure and information.

Review : Landreth, Bill; Out of the Inner Circle. Penguin. 1986. £10.00.

In the grand tradition of poacher turned gamekeeper, Bill Landreth, a member of the Inner Circle group of U.S. hackers, has written a guide to computer security. This book has less technical detail than the Hackers' Handbook but has still lots to teach systems operators and security personnel. Where the book is detailed is in the description of various types of hackers and their motivations. Having never met a hacker I can only rely on what I've read and like most others Landreth describes a "typical" hacker as a bored middle-class adolescent with a technology fixation. Political consciousness, or any other type of social consciousness seems to be definitely lacking. Landreth does mention various yuppies and other "deviants" who were involved in phone - phreaking, a fore-runner of hacking using the phone system (technically not possible in this country). However these "deviants" from the 60's and early 70's turned into part of the computer establishment in the 80's. No doubt most are firmly ensconced in Silicon Valley. These people and their early activities sound interesting but are only a side-line to the main story.

All in all a fairly interesting book for voyeurs like myself. Those on the inside, if what Landreth says is true, are too busy hacking to notice its appearance.

Pan

P.S. If anyone wants a manual on hacking, this is not it.



Situationist

REVIEW: AND YET IT MOVES: the realisation and suppression of science and technology. Boy Igor. Zamizdat Press NY £3.00. 1985. [Available from BLACK CHIP].

1. SLOW FADE IN:

(1) "The first man of science was he who looked into a thing, not to learn whether it would furnish him with food, or shelter, or weapons, or tools, or ornaments, or playthings, but who sought to know it for the gratification of knowing... Coleridge.

QUICK CUT TO:

(2) "The [research] monitoring process no longer lies in the realm of hypothesis and intellectual debate: it has moved into the political arena. It therefore partly takes the form of a trial of strength between power groups". "Council for Science and Society" Report, 1976.

What has happened? Those nice, calm, dispassionate, clever men who knew and told us as much as was good for us seem to have faded away. Althusser noted a while back that schools now do the job churches used to do, teaching a "hidden curriculum"; the unthinking and unnoticed acceptance of power, hierarchy, control, et cetera. It appears that this lesson needs reinforcing and that that is the job of Big Science. "Contemporary science, experimental heir of the religion of the Middle Ages, fulfills the same functions in relation to class society: it compensates people's daily stupidity with its eternal specialist intelligence. Science sings in numerals of the grandeur of the human race". [Eduardo Rothe "The conquest of space in the time of power"].

2. Most attempts to posit a

radical view of science foundered on the rock of Marx. In his later years, when his brain had hardened, he made increasingly desperate attempts to prove that socialism was more scientific, more objective than capital. This lead, all too directly, to Stalin the linguist and Lysenko the farmer. More recently we have seen a contrary critique; that of no science, no rationality; paeans to Gaia, and other Doris Stokes-like nonsense. The value of this book is that it takes on Big Science; doing so without these pitfalls. Boy Igor sees that there is enough mysticism and irrationality in the social organisation of science to make them a poor base for a critique; and he also avoids the usual fetishising of Idea, Method and Rationality. "Science, which was intended to free people historically and rationally from nature, has done nothing but alienate them in an irrational and antihistorical society". [Rothe].

3. Unfortunately, the radical refusal of Method has its flaws. This book is in places episodic and unconnected. An all-too-brief history of science is followed by sections on information, robotics and genetic engineering; all of considerable interest, but in the book more as extended examples than as part of its argument. It may well be that these chapters will interest readers of BLACK CHIP most; they'll have to buy the book to check... The thread resumes with a look at "pure" v. "applied" science, a nonsense that might have meant something to Coleridge but is clearly a fudge. Igor finds the first body of purist scientists in Britain, the Royal Society, applauding and not distinguishing between "the advancement of learning and profitable discoveries". Science sees the world askew to begin with

Science ?

and then adds the distorting lenses of capital. "Power is knowledge". Rothe again: "The present impossibility of scientific research and application without enormous means has effectively placed the spectacularly concentrated knowledge in the hands of power and has steered it towards statist objectives. There is no longer any science that is not in the service of the economy, the military, and ideology; and the science of ideology reveals its other side, the ideology of science".

4. The ideology of science: here is where the book arrives. Pithy and vindictive summaries of Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos and Feyerabend; vicious, but awake. If this book gets nothing else done, it might make people read Feyerabend; and it also spots his chief flaw, passivity. He argues for Dadaist free play, accompanied by supervision of scientists; but gives no hint as to how this can happen. Capital is not normally stupid enough, nor science reflexive enough, to question their own methodologies. When science does look to the future, we see "a future such as that presented in science fiction, in which interstellar adventures coexist with a terrestrial everyday life kept in the same old material indigence and archaic morality.." [Debord]. Feyerabend has the unspoken view that things will go on as they are, but with Science Wardens as well as Traffic Wardens; they will be as little regarded. Academics can afford not to look to closely at power; it no longer needs to look closely at them.

5. "Science works for survival and therefore cannot conceive of man as subject nor of human thought as action, and for this reason it is

ignorant of history".[Rothe]. Science is scientific not utopian; but Boy Igor is too utopian. Unfortunately for us all. Idealism deprives reality, the quotidian everyday, of its value. This value is rarely, if ever, realised; as Igor sees. He dismisses, depressingly but correctly, such reformist gestures as the Lucas scheme; but can show few bright lights in their place. He gives examples of moments of correct praxis, extinguished almost before they began; and sees in them the first signs of the "realisation and suppression of science". Certainly the only hope lies in a radical subjectivity, a refusal of boredom and sacrifice, a desire for play; these glimmer and vanish, flicker on and off in the ghastly half-light in which we live. Boy Igor is no more capable than any other writer, this reviewer included, of explaining a precise programme. There is an appeal in his appeals to the "life giving totality of unified proletarian theory"; but... . It is also a pity that he takes little account of recent work on women and science; and bones could be picked with his simplistic analysis of the transition from feudalism. Yet: he is angry, and rightly so. There is little excuse for academicism at the best of times; and these are not they. Igor may set a few more people going; or annoy a lot more. I, for one, hope so. His attack is more than timely, and richly needed; most critiques offer only wishful thinking. Science offers us in place of those dubious pleasures only Rothe's "passive knowledge of mediocre reality", the world that is all that is the case. For now. Praxis must improve on theory; philosophers of science have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it. Harry Gilonis.

REVIEW

Women and Communications. Published by the Communications Campaign. 1986 8pp. Free from 125 Glossops Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 8LF. (enclose an sae with requests)

This is a very well presented, if slim, pamphlet intended to open up discussion on the subject of women and communications. The text deals briefly with women and employment, homeworking, privatisation, health and safety, trade unions and sexism within the communications industry, in particular British Telecom. It is well illustrated with cartoons by the ubiquitous Cath Jackson, in fact they tend to overwhelm the text! We would reproduce one of Cath's cartoons but they are covered by copyright. Definitely worth getting hold of, indeed it is worth getting involved with the Communications Campaign. They have also released a draft text on Money and Communications and are inviting comment. Again write to ComCamp at the above address, enclosing a donation if you can afford it.

REVIEW

Graves, John. Liberating Technology, steps towards a benevolent society. Published by Peter Owen. 1986. £12.50. 175pp 0-7206-0656-X.

This looked quite a promising book from the title but to be honest I was somewhat disappointed by the perspective from which it was written. That is not to say that the issues that it raises are not pertinent, including rethinking attitudes to work, guaranteed living income for all, recreating "community" and so forth, but as a story it failed to convince.

John does not expect present day society to be able to implement these improvements in everyday life simply by accepting and spreading the use of new technologies but I feel he greatly underestimates the resistances that vested interest

groups (not least of which are the state and capital) have to a complete, if gradual, transformation of life through the automation of work processes.

One interesting aspect of the book is that he argues that new technology could, by making for a much shorter working week, and if coupled to both an equalisation of working hours among both men and women and also a guaranteed wage to everyone in society actually be a weapon in the struggle against sexism as it would reduce women's economic dependence on men and by giving men more "free" time encourage them to undertake more domestic work, leading to a revaluation of such work in the process. This is contrary to what most feminists seem to be arguing, i.e. that new technology will lead to a greater differentiation between men and women's wages, with women, through homeworking being increasingly prevented from taking part in community activities. I suspect that it is going to take more than new technology to change men's attitudes to domestic work, although I agree that the new technology, within a wider social movement could aid in the liberation John talks about. However there are very few signs that this is actually the case now, and indeed the demoralisation of traditional male work-cultures in the face of the restructuring of the workforce by new technology and other economic forces seems to be leading many men into more reactionary attitudes rather than less.

The way forward, if there is one, at present is anything but clear. John has produced a libertarian outline of one possible direction and whilst it looks comforting, its realisation is very far off at present.

Definitely one to get from the library if you want a quick read, but if you've been reading any of the previous books on the decline of work and the social impact of the new technologies I fear that you won't find much that is original here.

Richard

SHORTS

ASIAN WORD PROCESSING

As you will all realise, nearly all computers currently available in this country are Eurocentric in their keyboards and software. Tony Baldwinson is collecting details or contacts for word processors in Asian scripts, such as Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati and Bengali. Also anything on Chinese or other languages. Contact him at Greater Manchester CVS, FREEPOST, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6QL. If any Black Chip readers can translate our texts into other languages please let me know so that requests for articles in other languages can be dealt with. Whilst we're on the subject anyone want to do tapes of articles for inclusion in Talking Books or even write your own scripts?

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SOFTWARE

An initiative has been launched within the Community Computing Network to compile a directory of non-competitive, non-violent, anti-racist and anti-sexist software. "Play for Life" have some details apparently but I'm not sure of their address. Tony on 061-273-7451 will be pleased to hear of ideologically sound software. Also in on the act is Philip Boyd, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, 63 Waterloo Road, Wloverhampton WV1 4QU. Black Chip welcomes such software for review although I can't guarantee that worthy but tedious progs will get favourable reviews!!!

COMMUNITY COMPUTING NETWORK

Firstly apologies to everyone who subscribes to both this paper and the CCN for lumbering you with Peter Rowan's article again. (No reflection on the quality of the article though!). Obviously Peter sent to both Jules and myself and it was already laid out when the CCN Newsletter for July arrived. Having said which there may be a case for the CCN Newsletter and Black Chip undertaking joint publishing ventures as we cover similar areas, and the combined print run would justify becoming more professionally produced. Comments please!

Also in the July edition of CCN Newsletter is a four page Data Communications Special by Julian Todd, featuring a comparison between Geonet and Communitel. A must for everyone thinking about networking systems. Also has details on Poptel. Julian has produced a briefing on Data Communications jargon which is available from him at 37 Thomas Street, Bristol BS2 9LJ

Electronics for Peace have established their employment agency for people called Exchange Resources and is contactable at Townsend House, Green Lane, Marshfield, nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 8BR (0225-891710). So if you want socially responsible work give 'em a buzz.

REPRINTS

I have decided to do limited reprints of Black Chip and other articles. These will feature articles from previous issues, texts submitted that were too long for inclusion, and useful reprints from other magazines provided that the publishers don't object. This way I hope to keep the better stuff always available.

Currently available are:

Mavros Black: A Syndicalist Response to New Technology (4pp) originally published in Black Flag.....10p

Les Levidow and Bob Young: How do Technologies Embody Values? (8pp) originally published in this form in Black Chip.....20p

David Lodge Parnas: Software Aspects of Strategic Defence Systems (12pp) originally published in Communications of the ACM (v28/12)30p

Suggestions for further items to be reprinted, or of new texts to be distributed to the usual address

CONTACTS

This column is an attempt to list all those organisations, newsletters and net-works which may be of interest to readers of Black Chip. If you know of any other new technology orientated groups who should be included please let me know. I am happy to exchange Black Chip with anyone who sends me copies of their papers.

INTERNATIONAL

Australia : Australians for Social Responsibility in Computing, School of Maths and Physics, Macquarie University, North Ryde 2113. (02-88-9160)

Australia : Computers in Society, Department of Commerce, Australian National University, Canberra 2600.

Australia : Compuskill, 496 Bunnerong Road, Matraville 2036. (02-694-1033)

Australia : John Englart, PO Box 122, Erskineville, NSW 2042. (John publishes an Australian supplement to Black Chip)

Canada : INPUT, (Initiative for the Peaceful Use of Technology), Box 248, Station B, Ottawa, K1P 6C4 (613-230-6678)

France : Terminal 19/48, 18 Rue de Chatillon, 75014 Paris (Excellent journal)

France : Pogonip, BP 195, 75665 Paris Cedex 14. (Publish pamphlets)

U.S.A. : Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, PO Box 717, Palo Alto, California 94301 (415-322-3778)

U.S.A. : Econet, c/o Farallones Institute, 15290 Coleman Valley Road, Occidental CA 95465. (707-874-2441) Bulletin Boards

U.S.A. : Greenet, 1053 Williamson Street, Madison, WI 53708. (608-256-4158) Bulletin Boards

U.S.A. : NADA, (New Art for a Dangerous Age), 195 Garfield Place, Apt. 2L, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (Irregular journal)

U.S.A. : Newbase, 1035 Guenero, SF, CA 94110 (415-824-8767). Radical Bulletin Board.

U.S.A. : Overthrow/Y.I.P.I.S., PO Box 392, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013 (212-533-5028) (Publish Radical journal)

U.S.A. : Processed World, 55 Sutter Street, # 829, San Francisco, California 94104 (415- 495-6823) (Publish excellent journal, we excerpt just a few of the many good articles!)

U.S.A. : Reset, 90 East 7 St, Apt. 3A, NYC, NY 10009 (212-254-3582) (Publish irregular journal)

U.S.A. : Resurgence, Box 2824, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61820 (publish syndicalist journal)

U.S.A. : Silicon Daze, 365 Adelphi Street, #2, Brooklyn, New York 11238 (Publish journal)

U.S.A. : 2600, Box 752, Middle Island, New York 11953 (516-751-2600) (Publish regular paper, we're hoping to arrange for British readers to have access to this paper, especially for its hacking hints)

BRITAIN

Archives for Fortean Research, 1 Shoebury Road, London E6 2AQ (Database project on anomalous information)

British Unemployment Resource Network, c/o CAWTU, 318 St. Pauls Road, London N1 2LF. (01-359-8403). Run an electronic communications network

Centre of Alternative Industrial and Technological Systems, Polytechnic of North London, Holloway Road, London N7 8DB (01-607-2789 ext 2318 or 01-607-4530) Run trade union and community information service and publish newsletter.

Communications Campaign, c/o 125
Gossops Drive, Crawley, West Sussex,
RH11 8LF (0293- 515320) (Publish
series of pamphlets)

Community Computers UK, Inter-Action
Trust, Royal Victoria Dock, London
E16 1BT (01-511- 0411/2)

Community Computing Network, c/o
LITRU, 68 Chalton Street, London NW1
1JR

Edinburgh Computing and Social
Responsibility Group, 3 Buccleuch
Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NB

Electronics for Peace (London
group), c/o 89 Acre Road,
Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 6ES

Electronics for Peace (national
group), c/o
Townsend House, Green Lane,
Marshfield, Chippenham, Wilts SN14
8JW (0225-891-710)

Geonet, Planet Tree Communications/
Mitra, 17 Mackson Road, London NW3
(01-267-0188) Access point to
Green-net, Econet etc.

Here and Now, Box 2, c/o Changes,
340 West Princes Street, Glasgow,
Scotland G4 9HF (Publish radical
journal)

ICL Trade Union Combine, 8 Madison
Street, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffs ST6 5HT

Interface Associates, 5 Christchurch
Drive, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey
GU17 0HA

Microsystem, Women's Computer Centre
and National Women and Computing
Network and Newsletter; all c/o
Wesley House, 70 Great Queen Street,
London WC2 (01-430-0655). PLEASE
NOTE THAT THESE ARE ALL WOMEN ONLY.

Netreach, c/o 89 Mayfair Avenue,
Worcester Park, Surrey.
(01-337-3747)

PDPTL, Soft Solution, 25 Downham
Road, London N1 5AA (01-249-2948)
Federation of groups and individuals
promoting wider public access to
computer based communications.

Radical Science Journal, 26
Freegrove Road, London N7

Science for People, 25 Horseall Road,
London N5 1XL

Sheffield Computers for People, 7
Hawthorne Terrace, Sheffield, Sth
Yorks S10 1BT

Spectacular Times, Box 99, 84b
Whitechapel High Street, London E1
7BX (Situationist publishers)

Also the Community Computing
Network, with which some of you may
be familiar, has a substantial
membership among the voluntary
sector, so rather than duplicate
their list of ITECs etc. I suggest
you write to them if you want to
make contact there.

ALTERNATIVES TO PRESTEL

Libertel	01-733 7730
(Alternative politics, new technology and education)	
Communitel	01-968 7402
Cyclops	0908 643298
(Open University)	
Think-Link	01-247 0043
(For shop stewards, unions, tenants, community & labour movement)	

The Gnome at Home	01-888 8894
OwlTel	01-927 5820
(Information for BBC Micro owners)	
Metrotel	01-941 4285
Health Data	01-986 4360
Swafax	0622 850440
Swafax 2	0440 820002

Call The Private Sector BBS!

The official bulletin board of 2600

is available for you to call!

NOW RUNNING ORIGINAL SOFTWARE
ON A 20-MEG PC WITH THESE SUB-BOARDS:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| ● Telecom Digest | ● Computer Law |
| ● Media/News | ● Telecom |
| ● Networking | ● Computer Security |
| ● Info Retrieval | ● User Suggestions |
| ● BBS Advertising | ● Radio Commun. |

Connect with the famous
Private Sector BBS and participate
in interesting and intelligent talk
on telecommunications and computers.
201-366-4431 (300/1200)

TO CURE TECHNOPHOBIA YOU NEED A GOOD PSYCHOLOGIST.

A lot of people have a real phobia about new technology. At AT&T, we have someone who can help. In fact, we have hundreds of them.

Psychologists who observe people to test their reactions to new levels of monotony and the artificial. To find out what they'll put up with.

And as we develop new products and work methods, we develop new ways of testing people's reactions to them.

You see, at AT&T we believe even the most advanced technology is of little use if people resist it.

AT&T. We're reaching out to overcome all your doubts.



AT&T

